


GUIDE

# AI product photography workflow for small shops

*A step-by-step workflow for product photos with AI tools, from shot list to final export, with real published prices.*

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Small shops need many product images: main shot, angles, lifestyle scene, size chart, marketplace sizes. AI tools can draft most of them quickly. This workflow keeps quality and rights under control. Prices below were read on vendor pages on 2026-11-13.

## 1 Shoot or collect the source images

AI edits work best on a clean source photo. Take each product on a plain background in even light, straight-on and at a slight angle. You will also need accurate detail shots of labels, textures and logos. AI will not invent correct product facts; it redraws them. Keep a real photo of every product as the reference of truth.

## 2 Remove the background first

Cutting the subject out is the cheapest high-value step. remove.bg gives new users 1 free credit on its API page, and its docs state a credit covers one HD image (read 2026-11-13). Stability AI's API pricing page lists its Remove Background edit at 5 credits, which at 1 credit = $0.01 is about $0.05 per image (read 2026-11-13). Photoroom is built around this job; its pricing page lists Pro at $12.99 per month with 8,000 credits and 1,000 exports (read 2026-11-13).

## 3 Generate the scenes you need

Use a text-to-image or editing tool for the backgrounds and angles you cannot shoot:

- Studio look: plain seamless backdrop in brand colors.
- Lifestyle scene: the product on a kitchen counter, a desk or in use.
- Size and detail variants: crop and re-render from the clean source.

For API pipelines, Black Forest Labs prices FLUX.1 Fill [pro] inpainting at $0.05 per image and lists FLUX 3 and FLUX.2 models billed per megapixel (read 2026-11-13). For a subscription route, Freepik's Magnific plans list image credits from $14.50 to $82.50 per month billed annually (read 2026-11-13). Krea lists plans from $0 to $200 per month (read 2026-11-13).

## 4 Keep the product identical across images

The hardest part is consistency. The same label, color and shape must appear in every shot. Use the tool's reference-image or character-consistency features where offered; Black Forest Labs' editing docs describe multi-reference input for FLUX.2 with up to 10 reference images (read 2026-11-13). When a tool lacks references, generate one approved hero image and use it as the edit base for every variant.

## 5 Upscale and export

Export at the resolution each marketplace needs. Stability AI's API pricing lists a Fast Upscaler at 2 credits (about $0.02) and a Creative Upscaler at 60 credits for prompt-guided enhancement up to 4K (read 2026-11-13). Upscayl is a free, open-source desktop upscaler if

you prefer to run it locally (read 2026-11-13).

## 6 Check rights before you publish

Read the commercial-use terms for the exact plan you used. Some tools allow commercial use only on paid tiers; some open models are non-commercial by licence. Keep the terms link and date with your files. This site is not legal advice.

## A realistic budget example

For 100 product images a month with background removal, three scene variants each and upscaling, a subscription like Photoroom Pro ($12.99/month, read 2026-11-13) or a credit API like Stability AI (25 free credits to start, 1 credit = $0.01) covers the volume at low cost. The real cost is review time: budget for checking every image against the real product.

## Sources

All sources below were fetched and checked on 2026-11-13.

- Photoroom pricing, accessed 2026-11-13.
- Black Forest Labs pricing, accessed 2026-11-13.
- Black Forest Labs, FLUX.2 image editing docs, accessed 2026-11-13.
- Freepik pricing, accessed 2026-11-13.
- Krea pricing, accessed 2026-11-13.
- Stability AI API pricing, accessed 2026-11-13.
- remove.bg API page, accessed 2026-11-13.
- Upscayl, accessed 2026-11-13.

## Frequently asked questions

**Can AI replace a product photo shoot?**

It can produce drafts and variations fast, but check the tool's terms on commercial use and review every image before you publish. For hero images, many shops still want a real photo.

## Sources

photoroom.com — https://www.photoroom.com/pricing
blackforestlabs.ai — https://www.blackforestlabs.ai/pricing
freepik.com — https://freepik.com/pricing
platform.stability.ai — https://platform.stability.ai/pricing